



Expanding Access to Care Through Telemedicine

Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers (SBCHC) was awarded \$128,758.65 through the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin's 2024–2026 Telemedicine Grant to support critical technology needed to expand access to medical, dental, and behavioral health services across rural western Wisconsin.

About Scenic Bluffs

SBCHC is a nonprofit, Federally Qualified Health Center serving western Wisconsin since 1994. We provide integrated medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and complementary services across Monroe, Vernon, Crawford, Grant, Sauk and La Crosse counties.

As a safety-net provider, SBCHC serves all patients regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. In 2025, 66% of our patients lived below 200% of the federal poverty level, 27% were uninsured, and 56% relied on Medicaid or Medicare. Additionally, 10% of patients spoke a language other than English. Rural geography, transportation barriers, and workforce shortages make telemedicine essential to reducing health disparities in our region.

How the Grant Supports Care Expansion

PSC funding enabled SBCHC to purchase telemedicine and telehealth equipment to support major service expansions, including a planned new clinic in Crawford County and a mobile dental unit that will be serving our six-county region.

Grant-funded equipment included:

- Interpreter tablets and mobile carts to support language access in over 40 languages, including ASL
- Videoconferencing systems for provider collaboration and specialty consultation
- Laptops for school-based behavioral health services
- Portable dental imaging and teledentistry equipment for the mobile dental unit
- Medical X-ray system upgrades at our Cashton clinic
- Mobile connectivity tools to support care delivery in remote locations

Community Impact

Dental and mental health services are among the most critical needs in our region. Many counties we serve are designated Health Professional Shortage Areas, and SBCHC is one of the few providers accepting Medicaid for dental care. We currently receive around 1,000 new patient appointment requests each month.

This investment supports SBCHC in:

- Opening a new comprehensive clinic in Crawford County
- Expanding school-based behavioral health services
- Launching a mobile dental unit providing an estimated 3,500 additional dental visits annually
- Increasing healthcare access by approximately **12,000 additional patient visits per year** once expansions are fully operational

Strengthening Rural Health

Telemedicine allows SBCHC to bring care directly to patients—at schools, community sites, and rural locations—reducing travel time, missed appointments, and cost barriers. The PSC Telemedicine Grant strengthens our ability to deliver coordinated, high-quality care and advances our mission of building healthier, more resilient communities across western Wisconsin.